

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-29. Canceled.

30. (previously presented) A radio frequency identification device, comprising:

an elongated and disposable flexible strap having first and second opposite ends and having a fastening opening in one of said ends;

securement means incorporating a fastening element engageable with said fastening opening to removably connect said strap for supporting and retaining said strap in a closed loop configuration encircling an object or an individual to be identified;

a radio frequency identification circuit carried by said securement means; and

an antenna carried by said strap, and coupling means for operatively and removably connecting said antenna with said radio frequency identification circuit when said securement means is connected to said strap, and for disconnecting said antenna from said radio frequency identification circuit when said securement means is disconnected from said strap;

said securement means with said radio frequency identification circuit carried thereby having said fastening element removable from said fastening opening prior to disposal of said strap, and being adapted for subsequent assembly and re-use with a replacement strap;

said fastening element comprising a boss located internally of said securement means, said strap first end having said fastening opening formed therein for removably attaching said strap first end to said boss, and said

securement means further defining an opening extending therethrough for slide-through passage of said strap second end.

31. Canceled.

32. (previously presented) The radio frequency identification device of claim 30 wherein said radio frequency identification circuit is embedded within said securement means.

33. Canceled.

34. Canceled.

35. (currently amended) A radio frequency identification device, comprising:

an elongated and disposable flexible strap having first and second opposite ends and having a pair of fastening ~~opening in one of said ends~~ openings formed respectively at said first and second ends of said strap;

securement means incorporating a fastening element engageable with said fastening opening to removably connect said strap for supporting and retaining said strap in a closed loop configuration encircling an object or an individual to be identified;

a radio frequency identification circuit carried by said securement means; and

an antenna carried by said strap, and coupling means for operatively and removably connecting said antenna with said radio frequency identification circuit when said securement means is connected to said strap, and for disconnecting said antenna from said radio frequency identification circuit when said securement means is disconnected from said strap;

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wherein said securement means with said radio frequency identification circuit carried thereby having said fastening element removable from said fastening opening prior to disposal of said strap, and being adapted for subsequent assembly and re-use with a replacement strap; ~~said fastening opening in one of said ends of said strap comprising a pair of fastening openings formed respectively at said first and second ends of said strap,~~ and further wherein said securement means defines first and second opposite extremities each having a size and shape for interference fit reception respectively into said openings at said strap first and second ends.

36. (previously presented) The radio frequency identification device of claim 35 wherein said antenna is carried by said strap generally at said first end thereof for operative connection with said radio frequency identification circuit when said first extremity of said securement means is received into the opening at said strap first end.

37. (previously presented) The radio frequency identification device of claim 35 wherein said strap comprises an elongated tubular band.

38. (previously presented) A radio frequency identification device, comprising:

an elongated and disposable flexible strap having first and second opposite ends, said strap first end having a fastening opening formed therein;

securement means incorporating a fastening element engageable with said fastening opening to removably connect said strap for supporting and retaining said strap in a closed loop configuration encircling an object or an individual to be identified;

said securement means further defining an opening extending therethrough for slide-through passage of said strap second end;

a radio frequency identification circuit carried by said securement means; and

an antenna carried by said strap, and coupling means for operatively and removably connecting said antenna with said radio frequency identification circuit when said securement means is connected to said strap, and for disconnecting said antenna from said radio frequency identification circuit when said securement means is disconnected from said strap;

said securement means with said radio frequency identification circuit carried thereby having said fastening element removable from said fastening opening prior to disposal of said strap, and being adapted for subsequent assembly and re-use with a replacement strap.

39. Canceled.

40. Canceled.

41. (previously presented) A radio frequency identification device, comprising:

an elongated and disposable flexible strap having first and second opposite ends, said strap defining a pair of fastening openings formed respectively at said first and second ends thereof;

securement means removably connected to said strap for supporting and retaining said strap in a closed loop configuration encircling an object or an individual to be identified, said securement means defining first and second opposite extremities each having a size and shape for interference fit reception respectively into said openings at said strap first and second ends;

a radio frequency identification circuit carried by said securement means; and

an antenna carried by said strap, and means for operatively and removably connecting said antenna with said radio frequency identification circuit when said securement means is connected to said strap, and for disconnecting said antenna from said radio frequency identification circuit when said securement means is disconnected from said strap;

said securement means with said radio frequency identification circuit carried thereby being removable from said strap prior to disposal of said strap, and being adapted for subsequent assembly and re-use with a replacement strap.

42. Canceled.

43. (previously presented) The radio frequency identification device of claim 41 wherein said antenna is carried by said strap generally at said first end thereof for operative connection with said radio frequency identification circuit when said first extremity of said securement means is received into the opening at said strap first end.

44. (previously presented) The radio frequency identification device of claim 41 wherein said strap comprises an elongated tubular band.